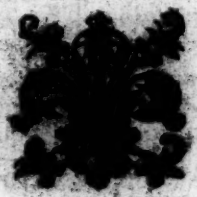
THE EARLE OF STRAFFORDS SPEECH ON THE *Scaffold* before he was beheaded on Tower-hill, the 12. of *May*, 1641.



London Printed, 1641.

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THE EARLE OF STRAFFORDS SPEECH ON the SCAFFOLD.

MY Lord Primate of *Ireland* (and my Lords, and the rest of these Gentlemen) it is a very great comfort to me, to have your Lordship by me this day, in regard I have been knowne to you a long time, I should be very glad to obtain so much silence, as to be heard a few words, but I doubt I shall not; my Lord I come hither by the good will and pleasure of Almighty God, to

pay that last debt I owe to sin, which is death, and by the blessing of that God to rise againe through the merits of Christ Jesus to eternall glory; I wish I had been private, that I might have been heard; My Lord, if I might bee so much beholding to you, that I might use a few words, I should take it for a very great curtesie; My Lord, I come hither to submit to that judgement which hath past against me, I doe it with a very quiet and contented minde, I doe freely forgive all the world, a forgiveneſſe that is not spoken from teeth outward (as they say) but from the heart; I speak it in the presence of Almighty God, before whom I stand, that there is not so much as a displeasing thought in me arising to any creature; I thanke God I may say truly, and my Conscience beares mee witnesse, that in all my services since I have had the honour to serve his Majesty in any employment, I never had any thing in my heart, but the joynt and individuall prosperity of King and People; if in have been my hap to be misconstrued, it is the common portion of us all while we are in this life, the right is judgement it is hereafter, here we are subject to error, and ape to be misjudged one of another; there is one thing I desire to cleere my selfe of, and I am very confident, I speake it with so much clearenesse, that I hope I shall have your Christian charity in the beliefe of it, I did al-

wayes ever thinke the Parliaments of England were the happiest Constitutions that any Kingdome, or any Nation lived under, and under God the meanes of making King and People happy; so far have I been from being against Parliaments; for my death, I here acquit all the world, and pray God heartily to forgive them; and in particular, my Lord Primate, I am very glad that his Majesty is pleased to conceive me not meriting so severe, and heavy a punishment as the utmost execution of this sentence; I am very glad, and infinitely rejoyce in this mercy of his; and beseech God to turne it to him, that he may finde mercy when he hath most need of it; I wish this Kingdome all the prosperity and happinesse in the world; I did it living, and now dying it is my wish, I doe now professe it from my heart, and doe most humbly recommend it unto every man here, and wish every man to lay his hand upon his heart, and consider seriously whether the beginning of the happinesse of a People should be written in letters of Blood. I feare you are in a wrong way, and I desire Almighty God that no one drop of my Blood may rise up in judgement against you.

(My Lord,) I professe my selfe a true and obedient Son to the *Church* of *England*, to that *Church* wherein I was borne, and wherein I was bred; *prosperity* and *happinesse*, be ever to it:

it: and whereas it hath been said that I have enclin'd to Popery, if it be an Objection worth answering, let me say truly, that from the time since I was one and twenty yeares of age, till this house, now going upon 49. I never had thoght in my heart, to doube of the truth of my Religion in *England*; and never any had the boldnesse to suggest to me the contrary, to the best of my remembrance; and so being reconciled to the mercies of *Christ Iesus* my Saviour, into whose bosome I hope shortly to be gather'd, to those eternall happinesses that shal never have end. I desire heartily the forgivenesse of every man, both for any rash or unadvised word, or deed, and desire your Prayers: And so my Lords farewell, farewell all the things of this world, LORD strengthen my faith, give me confidence and assurance in the merits of *Christ Iesus*. I desire you that you would be silent and joyne in Prayers with me; and I trust in GOD that we shall all meet and live eternally in Heaven, there to receive the accomplishment of all happinesse, where every teare shall be wiped from our eyes, and every sad thought from our hearts: And so God blesse this Kingdome, and *Iesus* have mercy upon my Soule.

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